Agricultural Extension Scheme

3194. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been providing funds to States for implementing Agricultural Extension Scheme;

(b) if so, whether any such scheme has been introduced in Rajasthan; and

(c) if so, the allocation of funds made therefor during the last years, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms" was launched in May, 2005. It aims at making extension system farmer driven and farmer accountable by way of new institutional arrangements for technology dissemination in the form of an Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) at district level. The scheme is under implementation across the country including Rajasthan. A total of 252 districts were to be covered under the scheme during the Tenth Five Year Plan. ATMAs have so far been established in 263 districts, including 22 ATMAs in Rajasthan namely — Alwar, Ajmer, Banswara, Bilwara, Baran, Bharatpur, Chittorgarh, Dungarpur, Hanumangarh, Jaipur, Jalore, Jodhpur, Jhalawar, Karauli, Nagaur, Pali, Rajsamand, Sriganga Nagar, Sirohi, Sikar, Swaimadhopur & Tonk.

(c) The allocation of funds made to Rajasthan during 2005-06 and 2006-07 is given as under—

Year	Release (Rs. in lakhs)
2005-06	231.00
2006-07	242.00

Viable land holding

3195. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of the number of farmers having less than two acres of cultivable land over the total number of cultivable land holders, State and Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether Government have made any assessment about the minimum size of holdings of cultivable land to be treated as viable for a family to live by;

(c) if so, the size thereof; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take for providing viable size of holding of land to the farmers in the minimum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) As per the Agricultural Census 2000-01, around 63.01% of the total operational holders operate less than 2.471 acres of land. State and Union Territory-wise details are given in Statement (*See* below).

(b) No, Sir. Due to variable cropping conditions affecting crop yields across different agro-climatic regions of the country, there can be no single minimum size of holding of cultivable and that can be treated as viable for a family.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.